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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/804,820	03/19/2004	Anthony Carter	480062.744	7101
35243 7590 08/10/2007 SEED INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW GROUP PLLC 701 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 5400 SEATTLE, WA 98104-7092			EXAMINER NGUYEN, PHILLIP H	
			ART UNIT 2191	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/804,820

Applicant(s)

CARTER ET AL.

Examiner

Phillip H. Nguyen

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 May 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to the amendment filed on 5/22/2007.
2. Claims 17, 22-23, 25 and 27 have been amended.
3. Claims 1-32 are pending and have been considered below.

Oath/Declaration

4. The amendment filed on 5/22/2007 indicates that an Application Data Sheet was filed on 3/19/2004. Therefore, the objection is withdrawn the objection since the ADS was filed on 3/19/2004.

Specification

5. The amendment filed on 5/22/2007 overcomes the object to the abstract and the specification of previous action. Therefore, the objection is withdrawn the objection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. The amendment filed on 5/22/2007 overcomes the rejection to claims 17-18 and 25-26 of previous action. Therefore, the rejection is withdrawn.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed 5/22/2007 have been fully considered but they are not deemed persuasive.

Applicant asserts on pages 14-15 of the amendment that Chen fails to disclose "comparing the read PCM information with the information from a configuration control file." Furthermore, Applicant asserts on page 14 that Chen merely compares an image of an installed software resident in his device to a newer version of the same software and the PCM of the present application's disclosed embodiments provides an indication of which software is to be installed but not yet been installed in the device. Chen also performs a comparison to identify differences rather than matches.

Examiner respectfully disagrees with all the allegations as argued. First, Examiner agrees with Applicant that the image of an installed software in Chen's approach represents the software that is already resident in a device. However, it also represents a newer/feature version of the software that already resident in a device. In other words, when a newer version has been released, this image is used to compare compatibility, differences, etc. Furthermore, the claim language does not say that the software is to be installed has not yet been installed in the device.

Applicant further asserts on page 15 that Chen fails to disclose for a match between the PCM information and the CCF information. Instead, Chen merely concerned about the differences between the images.

Examiner respectfully disagrees with the allegation as argued. Indeed, Chen concerns about the differences between images to obtain the upgrade version. However, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been recognize that the images must be compatible to each other in order to create an appropriate software package for the image to be installed into a device. For example, if there is no compatibility between

the images, then these two images are different, which also indicates that they are two different software applications. However, if they are compatible then Chen is interested in newer features to create a newer version software package.

Applicant asserts on page 16 of the amendment that Chen fails to teach a comparison of information indicative of configuration features as recited in claim 13 and the features as recited in claim 19.

Examiner respectfully disagrees with all the allegations as argued. Chen's image of software contains information indicative of configuration features in order to create an appropriate software package that can be operable on a device.

Applicant asserts on page 17 of the amendment that Chen fails to teach comparing each position in an alphanumeric string with a corresponding position in a mask.

Examiner respectfully disagrees with the allegation as argued. First, what is a mask? The specification disclosed *the CCF 200 can be a text file or other file that includes descriptive information related to software features that can be installed into device 100. in particular, the product configuration mask appears as an alphanumeric string* (see paragraph 0034). Chen's image is in binary or hexadecimal characters (0xFFFF). Hexadecimal is also considered as alphanumeric string because it contains digits and letters. Chen is comparing the alphanumeric strings between images for an update software version.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-13, and 15-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Chen et al. (United States Patent Application Publication No.: 2005/0102660 A1).

As per claim 1:

Chen discloses a method to install software features into an electronic device, the method comprising:

- storing at least one product configuration matrix (PCM) in the electronic device, the PCM including information representative of at least one software feature that can be installed in the electronic device (**"an existing software image resident in the device memory 110 of the electronic device 111"** Paragraph 0041, lines 14-15);
- reading the PCM information (**"comparing an existing software image resident in the device..."** Paragraph 41, lines 14-15 – **In order to compare, reading the file must performed**);

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- comparing the read PCM information with information from a configuration control file (CCF) ("**comparing an existing software image resident in the device memory 110 of the electronic device 111 to a newer version of the same software that may be stored in the software repository 113 or an external computer system 128**" Paragraph 0041, lines 14-18); and
- for a match between the PCM information and the CCF information, obtaining a software feature that corresponds to the match and installing that software feature into the electronic device ("**computes differences in the software images and creates an appropriate software package...applying the update package onto the electronic device 111 by processing and executing the instructions provided with the software package**" Paragraph 0041, lines 18-23).

As per claim 2:

Chen further discloses:

- wherein storing the PCM in the electronic device comprises storing the PCM into a data collection device ("**an existing software image resident in the device memory 110**" Paragraph 0041, lines 14-15).

As per claim 3:

Chen further discloses:

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- wherein at least some of the reading, comparing, obtaining, and installing is automatically performed during a boot sequence of the electronic device (**comparing, obtaining, and installing are done automatically by the “generator 107” module**).

As per claim 4:

Chen further discloses:

- comparing each position in the alphanumeric string with a corresponding position in a mask in the CCF (**“comparing an existing software image resident in the device memory 110 of the electronic device 111 to a newer version of the same software that may be stored in the software repository 113 or an external computer system 128”** Paragraph 0041, lines 14-18; **“binary images may be comprised of a pattern of binary or hexadecimal characters that creates a unique image... 0xFFFF”** Paragraph 0044, lines 15-18);
- for at least one position of the alphanumeric string that matches with a corresponding position in the mask, determining from the CCF a first location indicative of where a corresponding software feature is available and a second location in the electronic device where that software feature is to be installed (**“the binary creator 124 may be used to initialize device memory 110 in different types of devices so that subsequent processing by the generator 107 may be accomplished. Such processing includes determining**

different versions of the same software or determining unused memory locations in a device memory 110" Paragraph 0046); and

- obtaining that software feature from the first location and installing the obtained software feature in the second location ("**creates an appropriate software package...applying the update package onto the electronic device 111 by processing and executing the instructions provided with the software package**" Paragraph 0041, lines 19-23).

As per claim 5:

Chen further discloses:

- wherein obtaining the software feature from the first location includes obtaining the software feature from at least one of a file system ("**software that may be stored in the software repository 113 or the external computer system 128**" Paragraph 0041, line 17-18), wireless network, and wired network that are all remote from the electronic ("**generator 107 may interface with an electronic device 111 by way of wireless, wireline data communications**" Paragraph 0042, lines 29-30).

As per claim 6:

Chen further discloses:

- wherein comparing each position in the alphanumeric string with a corresponding position in a mask includes comparing each position in the alphanumeric string

with corresponding positions in multiple masks CCF ("**comparing an existing software image resident in the device memory 110 of the electronic device 111 to a newer version of the same software that may be stored in the software repository 113 or an external computer system 128**" Paragraph 0041, lines 14-18; "**binary images may be comprised of a pattern of binary or hexadecimal characters that creates a unique image... 0xFFFF**" Paragraph 0044).

As per claim 7:

Chen further discloses:

- wherein at least some of the storing, reading, comparing, obtaining, and installing is automatically performed during a boot sequence of the electronic device, subsequent to loading drivers of the electronic device and prior to loading a user interface of the operating system of the electronic device ("**the software (or firmware) is executed upon power up of the electronic device 111 in preparation for normal operation by the user**" Paragraph 0033, lines 24-26).

As per claim 8:

Chen further discloses:

- wherein obtaining the software feature that corresponds to the match includes obtaining encapsulated code for the software feature ("**creates an appropriate software package**" Paragraph 0041, line 19).

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As per claim 9:

Chen further discloses:

- either or both updating the CCF and generating the CCFs if there are updates and additions to software features that can be installed in the electronic device (**"update package onto the electronic device 111"** Paragraph 41, line 21, **the updated package includes the CCF**).

As per claim 10:

Chen further discloses:

- wherein storing the PCM in the electronic device comprising storing the PCM in nonvolatile memory of the electronic device (**"device memory 110 includes random operation memory (ROM), electrically programmable ROM"** Paragraph 0034, lines 8-9).

As per claim 11:

Chen further discloses:

- obtaining the CCF from at least one of a file system (**"software that may be stored in the software repository 113 or the external computer system 128"** Paragraph 0041, lines 17-18), wireless network, and wired network that are all remote from the electronic device (**"generator 107 may interface with an electronic device 111 by way of wireless, wireline data communications"** Paragraph 0042, lines 29-30).

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As per claim 12:

Chen further disclose:

- wherein installing the software feature in the electronic device includes installing the software feature without rebuilding an operating system image of the electronic device. **It is inherent in Chen's approach since the operating system has not been rebuilt after the software installation. Beside only software is updated, not hardware, no need to rebuild the operating system.**

As per claim 13:

Chen discloses:

- storing first information in an electronic device that is indicative of configuration features for the electronic device ("**an existing software image resident in the device memory 110 of the electronic device 111**" Paragraph 0041, lines 14-15);
- storing second information indicative of configuration features that are available for loading into the electronic device ("**a new version of the same software that may be stored in the software repository 113 or the external computer system 128**" Paragraph 0041, lines 16-18);
- automatically comparing the first and the second information ("**comparing an existing software image resident in the device memory 110 of the electronic device 111 to a newer version of the same software that may be stored in**

the software repository 113 or an external computer system 128" Paragraph 0041, lines 14-18); and

- automatically loading a configuration feature into the electronic device that corresponding to a match between the compared first and second information (**"computes differences in the software images and creates an appropriate software package...applying the update package onto the electronic device 111 by processing and executing the instructions provided with the software package"** Paragraph 0041, lines 18-23).

As per claim 15:

Chen further discloses:

- wherein storing the second information includes storing the second information in a file that is remote from the electronic device, including storing the file in at least one of a remote file system (**"software that may be stored in the software repository 113 or the external computer system 128"** Paragraph 0041, lines 17-18), wireless network, and wired network (**"generator 107 may interface with an electronic device 111 by way of wireless, wireline data communications"** Paragraph 0042, lines 29-30).

As per claim 16:

Chen further discloses:

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- performing the automatic comparing and loading a software feature into the electronic device (**"the software (or firmware) is executed upon power up of the electronic device 111 in preparation for normal operation by the user"** Paragraph 0033, lines 24-26).

As per claim 17:

Chen further disclose:

- wherein loading the configuration feature into the electronic device comprises loading a software feature into the electronic device without rebuilding an operating system image of the electronic device. **It is inherent in Chen's approach since the operating system image has not been rebuilt after the software installation. Beside, only software is updated, not hardware, no need to rebuild the operating system image.**

As per claim 18:

Chen further discloses:

- remotely obtaining code in encapsulated format that represents the software feature that is to be loaded into the electronic device (**"creates an appropriate software package"** Paragraph 0041, line 19 – **software is in packaged format**).

As per claim 19:

Chen discloses:

- a machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon to cause a processor to install software feature into an electronic device (**"a device memory 110 capable of storing and running firmware or software for properly booting up and subsequently operating the electronic device 111"**

Paragraph 0034, lines 5-7), by:

- o reading at least one product configuration matrix (PCM) stored in the electronic device, the PCM including information representative of at least one software feature that can be installed in the electronic device (**"comparing an existing software image resident in the device..."** Paragraph 14, **in order to compare, reading the file must performed**);
- o obtaining a configuration control file (CCF) remotely from the electronic device (**"software that may be stored in the software repository 113 or the external computer system 128"** Paragraph 0041, lines 17-18);
- o comparing the read PCM information with information from the obtained CCF (**"comparing an existing software image resident in the device memory 110 of the electronic device 111 to a newer version of the same software that may be stored in the software repository 113 or an external computer system 128"** Paragraph 0041, lines 14-18);

- identifying at least one match between the PCM information and the CCF information ("**computes differences in the software images**" Col 0041, lines 18-19, **computes the difference to identify the match**);
- obtaining a software feature that corresponds to the match and loading that software feature into the electronic device ("**creates an appropriate software package...applying the update package onto the electronic device 111 by processing and executing the instructions provided with the software package**" Paragraph 0041, lines 19-23).

As per claim 20:

Chen further discloses:

- wherein at least some of the instructions to store, read, obtain the CCF, compare, identify, and obtain the software feature, and install include instructions to automatically perform at least some of these during a boot sequence of the electronic device ("**the software (or firmware) is executed upon power up of the electronic device 111 in preparation for normal operation by the user**" Paragraph 0033, lines 24-26).

As per claim 21:

Chen further discloses:

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- wherein the instructions to read the PCM information includes instructions to read an alphanumeric string, and wherein the instructions to compare the read PCM information with information from the CCF includes instructions to:
 - o compare each position in the alphanumeric string with a corresponding position in a mask in the CCF ("**comparing an existing software image resident in the device memory 110 of the electronic device 111 to a newer version of the same software that may be stored in the software repository 113 or an external computer system 128**" Paragraph 0041, lines 14-18; "**binary images may be comprised of a pattern of binary or hexadecimal characters that creates a unique image... 0xFFFF**" Paragraph 0044);
 - o for at least one position of the alphanumeric string that matches with a corresponding position in the mask, determining from the CCF a first location indicative of where a corresponding software feature is available and a second location in the electronic device where that software feature is to be installed ("**the binary creator 124 may be used to initialize device memory 110 in different types of devices so that subsequent processing by the generator 107 may be accomplished. Such processing includes determining different versions of the same software or determining unused memory locations in a device memory 110**" Paragraph 0046); and

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- obtaining that software feature from the first location and installing the obtained software feature in the second location ("**creates an appropriate software package...applying the update package onto the electronic device 111 by processing and executing the instructions provided with the software package**" Paragraph 0041, lines 19-23).

As per claim 22:

Chen discloses:

- a means for storing first information in an electronic device that is indicative of configuration features for the electronic device ("**device memory 110**" Paragraph 0041, line 15);
- a means for storing, as a configuration control file (CCF), second information indicative of configuration features that are available for loading into the electronic device ("**software repository 113**" Paragraph 0041, line 17);
- a means for automatically comparing the first and second information ("**comparing an existing software image resident in the device memory 110 of the electronic device 111 to a newer version of the same software that may be stored in the software repository 113 or an external computer system 128**" Paragraph 0041, lines 14-18); and
- a means for automatically loading a configuration feature into the electronic device that corresponds to a match between the compared first and second information ("**applying the update package onto the electronic device 111 by**

processing and executing the instructions provided with the software package” Paragraph 0041, lines 21-23).

As per claim 23:

Chen further discloses:

- wherein said means for storing second information includes means for remotely storing either or both the CCF and the available configuration features remotely from the electronic device (**“software repository 113 or the external computer system 128” Paragraph 0041, lines 17-18).**

As per claim 24:

Chen further discloses:

- means for performing at least some of the automatic comparing (**“comparing an existing software image resident in the device memory 110 of the electronic device 111 to a newer version of the same software that may be stored in the software repository 113 or an external computer system 128” Paragraph 0041, lines 14-18)** and loading during a boot sequence of the electronic device (**“applying the update package onto the electronic device 111 by processing and executing the instructions provided with the software package” Paragraph 0041, lines 21-23).**

As per claim 25:

Chen further discloses:

- means for extending and adapting the CCF additional software features to be automatically installed in the electronic device after other software features have been previously loaded ("**the software package comprising either a new software package that is loaded in a new electronic device 111 at the time of manufacture or a software update package that is installed as a revision to an existing software package in an electronic device 111**" Paragraph 0041, lines 6-10) and without requiring a rebuild of an operating system of the electronic device (**It is inherent in Chen's approach since only software is updated, not hardware**)

As per claim 26:

Chen further discloses:

- means present in the electronic device for supporting operation of the electronic device ("**software for properly booting up and subsequently operating the electronic device 111**" Paragraph 0034).

As per claim 27:

Chen discloses:

- an operating system of an electronic device (**it is inherent in order to operating the electronic device, the operating system is stored in the memory device 110 for operating the electronic device 111** Paragraph 0034, line 7);
- a product configuration matrix (PCM) having instruction representative of at least one software feature that can be installed in the electronic device (**"an existing software image resident in the device memory 110 of the electronic device 111"** Paragraph 0041, lines 14-15), and to be compared with information from an external configuration control file (CCF) to determine if there is at least one match between the PCM information and the CCF information (**"comparing an existing software image resident in the device memory 110 of the electronic device 111 to a newer version of the same software that may be stored in the software repository 113 or an external computer system 128"** Paragraph 0041, lines 14-18);
- a communication interface through which to receive a software feature that corresponds to a match between the PCM information and the CCF information (**"wireless or wireline data communications"** Paragraph 0042, line 30);
- a storage medium in which to automatically install the received software feature (**"a device memory 110 capable of storing and running firmware or software"** Paragraph 0034), the software feature being automatically installed in the storage medium substantially without rebuild the operating system (**applying the update package onto the electronic device 111 by processing and**

executing the instructions provided with the software package" Paragraph 0041, lines 18-23).

As per claim 28:

Chen further discloses:

- wherein the electronic device can perform a boot sequence, wherein at least some of the comparison of PCM and CCF information, reception of the software feature, and automatic installation of the software feature can be performed during the boot sequence ("**the software (or firmware) is executed upon power up of the electronic device 111 in preparation for normal operation by the user**" Paragraph 0033, lines 24-26).

As per claim 29:

Chen further discloses:

- wherein the PCM is stored in a nonvolatile memory location of the electronic device ("**device memory 110 includes random operation memory (ROM), electrically programmable ROM**" Paragraph 0034, lines 8-9).

As per claim 30:

Chen further discloses:

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- wherein the PCM comprises an alphanumeric string ("**binary images may be comprised of a pattern of binary or hexadecimal characters that create a unique image...0xFFFF**" Paragraph 0044).

As per claim 31:

Chen further discloses:

- wherein the communication interface can obtain either or both the CCF and software from at least one of a remote file system ("**software may be stored in the external computer system 128**", Paragraph 0041, lines 17-18), wireless network, and wired network ("**may interface with an electronic device 111 by way of wireless or wireline data communications**" Paragraph 0042, lines 29-30).

As per claim 32:

Chen further discloses:

- wherein the electronic device comprises a data collection device ("**within the electronic device 111 resides a device memory 110 capable of storing and running firmware or software for properly booting up...**" Paragraph 0034, line 4-6).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen et al. (United States Patent Application Publication No.: US 2005/0102660 A1).

As per claim 14:

Chen discloses the method as in claim 13 above; and further discloses wherein storing the second information includes:

- providing a mask having characters arranged in positions of a string ("0xFFFF" Paragraph 0044);
- specifying, for each of the positions that have the second type of alphanumeric character, a location where a corresponding configuration feature can be copied from external to the electronic device ("**a software package may be incorporated into a binary image and then saved into the software repository 113 for future use by the generator 107**" Paragraph 0045); and
- specifying, for each of the positions that have the second type of alphanumeric character, a location where a corresponding configuration feature can be copied to in the electronic device ("**software package may be saved in the...loaded**

directly onto device memory 110 of one or more electronic device”

Paragraph 0045);

- Having a second type of alphanumeric character, different from the first type of alphanumeric character, in positions in the string that are to be compared
(“comparing an existing software image resident in the device memory 110 of the electronic device 111 to a newer version of the same software that may be stored in the software repository 113 or an external computer system 128” Paragraph 0041, lines 14-18; “binary images may be comprised of a pattern of binary or hexadecimal characters that creates a unique image... 0xFFFF” Paragraph 0044).

Chen does not explicitly disclose:

- the string having a first type of alphanumeric character in positions in the string that are to be ignored during the comparing with the first information.

However, it would have been obvious to one having an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Chen's approach to ignored some alphanumeric character when compared.

Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify Chen's approach to have first type of alphanumeric character in position in the string that are ignored during the comparing with the first information in order to accomplish the comparison. Not every characters in a string are for comparing so ignore some character is necessary.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phillip H. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 270-1070. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wei Y. Zhen can be reached on (571) 272-3708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

PN
8/2/2007



WEI ZHEN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER